

Sink-or-Scuba Credo

JUN - 2 1972

By DAVE LOVECCHIO
Tribune Sports Writer

Dale Eidson is going scuba diving in a couple of weeks which may come as a big surprise, if you remember his story.

On July 4 of last year a random spark in a can of four-year-old fireworks exploded Eidson's dream of playing pro football.

On the eve of his leaving for a tryout with the San Diego Chargers, Dale lost both legs and part of his right hand.

The 25-year-old San Francisco State graduate has obviously made many adjustments in the past year. They've only made Eidson a more determined man.

"I had to fight against having a negative attitude the whole time I was in the hospital," he said.

"But if you go through life saying 'I can't do it,' you won't do it. You have to be-



DALE EIDSON
Legless athlete

lieve that no matter how hard something is, it's still possible."

One of the things Dale is learning again is swimming. With the help of doctors at Letterman Hospital he is testing a new type of artificial legs especially suited to water.

The new leg made of fiberglass, foam and plastic, is the first one of its kind," Eidson says. "It hooks up on the top of the knee."

Scuba diving and swimming aren't the only activities keeping Eidson busy.

Since November he has worked part-time as a sportscaster for a radio station in Concord and just yesterday started selling insurance.

"I also dance once in a while and I play the drums. I've got a group called the Ty-Tones. We've been together for six years," he said.

Dale made up his mind soon after the accident to do for himself.

"I said I would be dancing

by the end of the year, playing the drums by February and be on my own," he said. "I've met every goal so far."

He lives alone in an apartment in Concord.

Why scuba diving, a new activity he starts June 15 at the Olympia Scuba School in Walnut Creek?

"I made up my mind to accept the fact that the accident happened and there's nothing I can do about it," he said. "Nothing will bring my legs back. You just make up your mind to do the best you can. That's the answer."